

SITUATION REPORT NO. 24
INCIDENT NO. 2000-016
DATE: August 10, 2000 TIME: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flooding and ground saturation – Due to a series of storms and high water tables, resulting from eight years of consecutive flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Engineers at the State Water Commission reported that heavy summer rainfall has offset July evaporation and filled much of the storage in the Devils Lake watershed, causing concern that additional rainfall could raise lake levels. Typically, the watershed is dry at this time of year and could hold additional precipitation. However, because of the rainfall the watershed and its soils contain much more water than is typical at this time of year, if additional precipitation occurs, the result could be additional runoff. The lake level has remained nearly steady since November 1999. Although the lake did not rise this spring due to the lack of runoff caused by the mild winter, normally in July and August the level is slowly dropping as evaporation takes places. This has not yet occurred this year, as on August 9 the lake was higher than it was on July 1. Although the lake has dropped in July and August due to evaporation, these losses have been offset by the rain both directly on the lake and throughout the watershed. The current lake level measures 1,446.09 feet, approximately 23 feet above 1993 levels. The volume of the lake has quadrupled since the spring of 1993 and covers 120,000 acres. The National Weather Service (NWS) reported peak lake elevations neared 1,446.3 feet in March and in July. The maximum mean daily elevation of record, 1,447.07 feet, occurred during 1999. The highest instantaneous elevation of 1,447.28 feet occurred on August 15, 1999; however, NWS hydrologists cautioned that this level was affected by winds.
4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: In Fargo, Lutheran Disaster Response/Lutheran Social Services and a group of volunteer agencies are sponsoring Camp Noah during August 7 to 11 for children who have been affected by the disaster. Other sponsoring agencies for the camp, which is being held at Olivet Lutheran Church, include: Great Plains Food Bank; the Southeast

Human Service Center of the N.D. Department of Human Services; American Red Cross; United Methodist Committee on Relief; United Church of Christ; and Cass County Public Health.

Catholic Family Services outlined its grant program for disaster relief in letters sent to 80 parishes in counties recently added to the disaster.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Following a state/federal Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) and state request, FEMA-1334-DR-ND has been amended to include the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation. Three Affiliated Tribes has experienced similar wind/flood-related problems as the previously declared North Dakota counties and two Indian reservations. To date, 26 counties and three Indian reservations have been declared eligible for individual assistance and public assistance; and 13 contiguous counties have been declared for individual assistance. All 53 North Dakota counties are eligible for hazard mitigation.

The application period has been extended to September 22 for individual assistance programs for FEMA-1334-DR-ND.

N.D. Department of Human Services has initiated a special needs of the elderly program, which is headquartered in the Fargo Commission on Aging. FEMA Community Relations personnel are providing assistance. The purpose is to help people understand flood recovery assistance programs.

Federal and state officials conducted a tribal disaster recovery meeting today at Spirit Lake Nation to review Individual Assistance programs, the Public Assistance Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

As of August 10, Job Service North Dakota received 3,404 claims and paid \$1,393,731 in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits to farmers, ranchers, farm workers, migrant workers and other self-employed individuals who have lost income because of disaster conditions. The deadline for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has been extended until August 25. The effective date for DUA claims is April 8, 2000.

The Public Assistance Program has received 127 eligible requests for public assistance from local governments, state agencies and private, non-profit organizations. To date, 123 kickoff meetings with applicants have been conducted.

As of August 9, a total of 6,740 North Dakotans registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) teleregistration center for individual assistance programs.

- The Disaster Housing Program has received 5,616 applications. To date, FEMA has paid more than \$7,787,996 in housing benefits and completed 5,529 home inspections.

- The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, had received 1,835 applications and had approved \$1,315,412 in benefits by August 9.
 - As of August 9, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has issued 5,772 applications to disaster victims and has administered \$5,234,800 in loans.
7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
 8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
 9. OTHER: Staff members from North Dakota Emergency Management and N.D. Department of Human Services are providing technical assistance to Montana officials who are addressing wildland fires. Staff members from the two agencies will be assigned temporarily to the Montana Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Helena. Additionally, dozens of firefighters representing several organizations based in North Dakota have been rotating into fire-plagued areas over the past few weeks. This resource commitment is expected to continue.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed a web page with cleanup and recovery information. The page is located at: <http://www.fema.gov/reg-viii/floods.htm>

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director